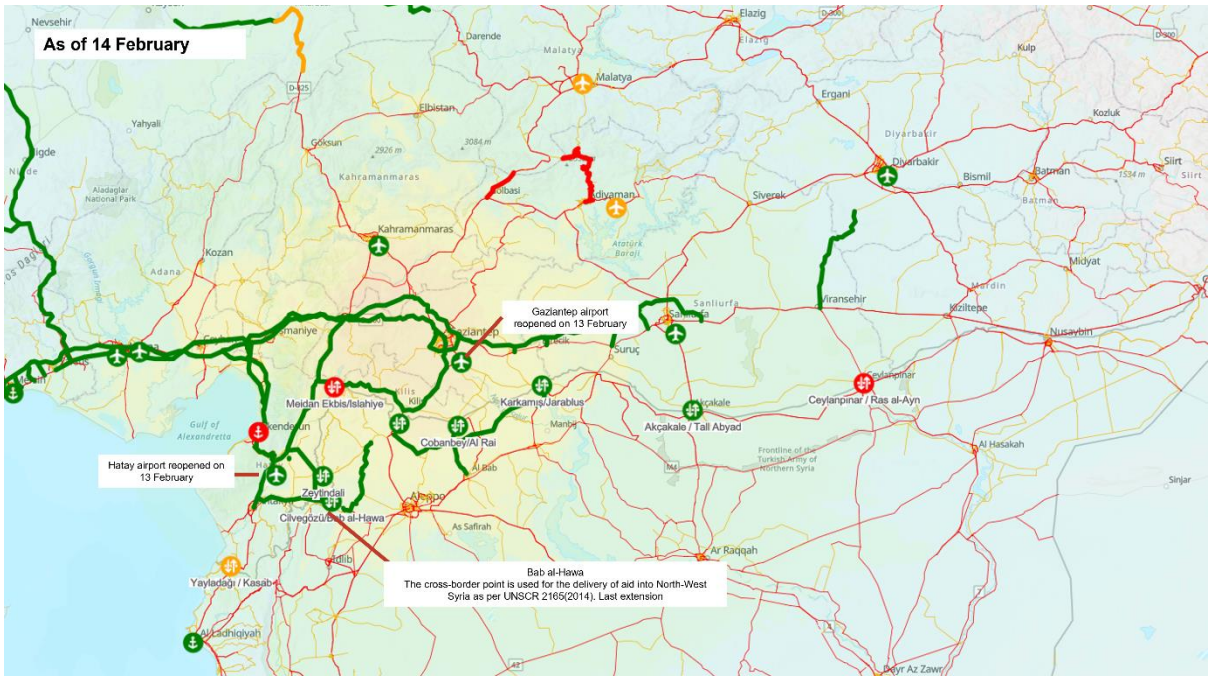
Situational Update (Reporting Period: 10-14 February 2023)

A 7.8 Richter magnitude earthquake hit Türkiye and Syria on 6 February 2023. Aftershocks followed and a second major earthquake hit the region on the same day with 7.5 Richter magnitude leading to severe damaging of infrastructure. In Türkiye, at least 31,643 people have lost their lives in Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Adana, Adıyaman, Osmaniye, Hatay, Kilis and Malatya and Elazığ. In Syria, at least 7,500 people have lost their lives in Aleppo, Hama, and Lattakia.



1. Türkiye

A team of five Logistics Surge Team staff members (three logistics officers and two information management officers) is currently based in Gaziantep in support of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) mission. The focus is to provide coordination and information management support to the humanitarian community in Türkiye and assess partners' logistics bottlenecks and needs with a focus on Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay, and Mersin as main expected entry points for international humanitarian cargo.

General updates

- On 13 February 2023, the Government of Türkiye informed that the airports of Şanlıurfa and Hatay were operational again. Gaziantep airport is also open to passenger flights.
- Within Türkiye, the main roads between Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay and Adiyaman are operational. In the area of Malatya, some roads are only accessible to 4x4 cars. Adana currently serves as main entry point for international humanitarian cargo, but it is expected that air cargo will increase in Gaziantep soon.

Coordination

- Two Logistics Response Meetings as part of the Türkiye/Syria Earthquake Response Operation took place on 10 and 13 February 2023. Over 40 humanitarian partner organisations attended the meetings. Partners mainly enquired about physical access constraints, customs clearance procedures, warehousing possibilities, and medical logistics.
- The Syria/Türkiye Earthquake Response - Incoming pipeline through Türkiye - assessment form was disseminated with partners for collection of upstream pipeline needs.

Information Management

- The LogIE interactive mapping platform was set up to provide a dynamic overview of the main physical access constraints mapping updates, including status of the airports, ports, damaged infrastructure, and cross-border entry points.
- The "IMPortation and Customs Clearance Together" (IMPACCT) Working Group has been providing guidance to partners on customs clearance procedures in Türkiye through participation at the Logistics Response Meetings and through the establishment of a relevant WhatsApp group. The IMPACCT Bulletin n°3 on "Customs, Importation and Quarantine Procedures" was published online, along with the Türkiye/Syria Earthquake Response - Customs Procedures which provide background information on the process for exporting humanitarian aid from Türkiye into Syria as per September 2020. More information can be provided by reaching out to impacct.2021@gmail.com.
- The meeting minutes of the Türkiye/Syria Earthquake - Meeting Minutes, Gaziantep, 10 February 2023 were published online.
- The Government of Türkiye shared a list of urgent international assistance items as well as a list of medical supplies in the frame of the Türkiye/Syria Earthquake Response.

2. Syria

The WFP-led Syria Logistics Cluster is active since January 2013. In September 2014, the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach was adopted as a result of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2165, bringing together separate regional operations into a single framework. On 12 July 2022, the Security Council approved UNSCR 2642, which authorised the use of Bab al-Hawa border crossing to send United Nations humanitarian assistance to North West Syria until 10 January 2023. On 9 January 2023, the decision to confirm the extension of that authorization for an additional six months was communicated under UNSCR 2672.

General updates

- On 7 February 2023, the Government of Syria confirmed that Jaddidyt Yabws, Jossieh, Addabousiyah, Jesser Qmar, Matrabah, and Arida border crossing points between Lebanon and Syria are currently operational. The Jaber/Naseeb crossing point between Jordan and Syria is operational as well. More information can be found in the Türkiye/Syria Earthquake Response - OCHA Syria Entry for Supplies and Staff Facilitation notice.

- On 12 February 2023, the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates (MoFAE) developed SOPs for importation and staff entry into Syria, in which it designates focal points for customs and visa-related matters for supplies and personnel for the humanitarian organisations currently not operating in Syria. Information on current entry land and air entry points and simplified visa procedures are provided in the frame of the Türkiye/Syria Earthquake response.
- On 14 February 2023, the Government of Syria confirmed that Bab al-Salam and Al Ra'ee border crossing points will open for an initial period of three months to allow for timely delivery of humanitarian aid.

Provision of Logistics Services:

- The transhipment activities between Türkiye and Syria resumed after the earthquake on 9 February 2023. Since then, 84 trucks from five United Nations agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, WFP, UNFPA) have been processed at the Syria Logistics Cluster-managed transhipment hub in Bab-al Hawa.

Coordination

- The Syria Logistics Cluster coordination meeting took place on 13 February 2023: meeting minutes here.
- The Syria Logistics Cluster coordinates the transhipment hub in Bab al-Hawa and tracks all transhipments of humanitarian cargo in close coordination with the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM).
- The Syria Logistics Cluster requested funding for $1.2 m through a Flash Appeal for a period of three months to improve access to common logistics services. At the moment, services are being provided by WFP Bilateral Service Provision (BSP) on a cost-recovery basis. The Flash Appeal caters for transport and storage logistics services inside Syria, facilitation of delivery of incoming donations, and facilitation of cross-border activities into North West Syria through Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salam and Al Ra'ee.

Information Management

- The LogIE interactive mapping platform was set up to provide a dynamic overview of the main physical access constraints mapping updates, with a focus on cross-border points between Türkiye and Syria.
- At the moment, documents related to the Syria response are being uploaded on both the Syria Logistics Cluster webpage and the Türkiye/Syria Earthquake Response Operation websites.
- Invitations on OCHA's "Humanitarian Notification System in Support of Access and Protection in Syria" webinars were shared with partners of the Syria Logistics Cluster.
- The Türkiye/Syria Earthquake Response - OCHA Syria Entry for Supplies and Staff Facilitation guidance document was published online in Arabic and in English.

Contacts

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